GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4383
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001
HEALTH AND SECURITY TO WORKERS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations through Members of Parliament and from various NGOsespecially the Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Guntur, regarding the working of the Employees State InsuranceScheme and its failure to provide Health Insurance and security to workers;

(b) if so, whether the Government have probed into the working of the ESI and its failure to benefit those for whom it is meant; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to improve the services of ESI and to make it effective enough to provide health cover to workers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) to (c): The ESI Scheme provides forpayment of certain cash benefits and medical care. While provisions of the cash benefits are being administered by the ESICdirect, the provisions of medical care are being administered by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations except in Delhi & Noida where it is being administered by the ESIC direct. Administration of cash benefits by the ESICi s generally satisfactory. However there have been sporadic complaints including some complaints from Members of Parliament about shortage of Medical and Para-Medical Staff, lack o f Drugs, Dressings, equipments etc. in ESI hospitals and dispensaries. As medical care is being administered by the State Govts./ Union Territory Administrations, such complaints as and when received are forwarded to the concered State Govts. for taking appropriate remedial measures. The Corporation has also appointed a General Purposes Sub-Committeecomprising an M.P. which visits ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries inone o r two States every year. The observations/recommendations of the GPSC are also brought tothe notice of concerned State Government for taking corrective measures. In order to improve resource position of the State Governments for administrationof medical care. The ESIC has enhanced the ceiling on expenditure on medical care from Rs.500/- to Rs.600/-per insured person per annum with effect from 1.4.1999. Recently in order to bring improvement in the working of ESI hospitals/dispensaries, the ESI Corporationhad recently formulated an Action Plan and forwarded the same to the State Governments for implementation inconsultation with the ESIC. The Action Plan includes inter-alia upgradation/modernisation of medical facilities in ESI hospitals by providing themequipments of ultra-sonography, pulse oximeter, auto analyzer, semi-auto analyzer, cardiac monitor, dental unit, resuscitation equipments etc. Under ESI Scheme tie-up arrangement has also been made for Super-Speciality treatment with reputed medicalinstitutions in the country. A revolving fund has been set up by the ESIC with Regional Directors in theStates so as to facilitate prompt re-imbursement of medical expenditure incurred by insured persons on Super-Speciality treatment.